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GOVERNOR

STATE OF MAINE  
DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES  
21 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, MAINE  
04333-0021

PATRICK C. KELIHER  
COMMISSIONER

January 2, 2014

To: Elver Dealer,

The proposed rule for the buying and reporting of elvers (glass eels) has been adopted and is effective December 24, 2013 for the 2014 elver season. The purpose of this portion of the regulation is to obtain more accurate and timely information on the amount of elvers caught or landed in Maine for use in fisheries management as well as to demonstrate the social and economic importance of marine resources to Maine. The swipe card system is also a more secure system in which harvesters and dealers cannot easily conduct transactions to sell or purchase illegal elvers.

Important aspects of the rule are as follows:

- All elver dealer licenses (including supplemental licenses) must be purchased by February 1<sup>st</sup> of each year for the upcoming season.
- The rule requires elver harvester license holders to present a swipe card to be used by the dealer in order to record each transaction. Dealer must also verify the harvester is licensed by viewing the harvester's photo ID and current elver license.
- Dealers are required to report what they receive from harvesters on a weekly basis during the elver harvesting season using approved electronic reporting methods.
- Dealers will be required to provide their own computers each buying station or facility for reporting (laptops or PC's). The computer must run on an operating system of Microsoft Vista or greater (Windows 7 or 8); **Windows XP will not be able to run the supplied hardware and software.**
- The reporting software and the swipe card readers/receipt printers will be provided by DMR free of charge. DMR staff will assist dealers in setting up and instructing the use of the swipe card system starting in February.
- All elver buying transactions from harvesters must be recorded on this system. If a harvester does not have a transaction card that matches them, the dealer cannot buy elvers from that harvester.

**RULE TITLE OR SUBJECT:** Chapter 8 Landings Program and Chapter 32 Eels. Elver Reporting Requirements and Swipe Card System; ASMFC Eel Compliance Measures.

If you have any questions, please call David Libby at (207) 633-9532.

DMR will also be testing the swipe card system on an Android smartphone, provided by DMR  
If you are interested in participating please call.

Sincerely,

David Libby  
Landings Program